



Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board Meeting Minutes

**January 9, 2012
1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215**

Members Present

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Therese Goldsmith, J.D., M.S.
Darrell Gaskin, Ph.D.
Rebecca Pearce, M.B.A.
Thomas Saquella, M.A.

Kenneth Apfel, M.P.A.
Jennifer Goldberg, J.D., LL.M.
Enrique Martinez-Vidal, M.P.P.
Ben Steffen, M.A.

Members Absent

Georges Benjamin, M.D.

Opening and General Updates

Secretary Sharfstein opened the meeting by welcoming the Board and thanking everyone involved with the tremendous efforts on preparing the policy report that was submitted to the General Assembly on December 23, 2011, and released publicly on December 27, 2011. The key findings were presented to the Health Care Reform Coordinating Council on January 5, 2012. Rebecca Pearce, Executive Director of the Exchange, introduced a new employee, Leslie Lyles-Smith, Director of Operations. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Closed Session

The Board excused itself to go into a closed session.

2012 Planning

At a high level, there are three major streams of work that will be the focus of 2012 for the Exchange: the legislative session and anticipated studies with corresponding policy work, level 2 grant preparations, and IT development. Between the legislative session and the work that results from the Exchange bill, this stream is anticipated to span the entire year. The level 2 grant has two options for application—March and June—which will impact the duration and timing of that process. Upon receipt of a notice to proceed from CCIIO (Center for Consumer Information and

Insurance Oversight), IT development is expected to begin in the early part of 2012 and continue through the year, with the goal of an application for certification.

Additional streams, including internal operations, such as budgeting for the Exchange, further organizational staffing, and finding long-term office space; Exchange operations, such as defining relationships and detailing work to be done with and by partner agencies; communications, such as creating a comprehensive marketing strategy and enhancing the current website; and plan and channel management, such as establishing relationships with partners and outlining operational and IT business requirements, will be ongoing as well. Some preliminary draft goals and tactics were presented.

There was discussion about potential items that should also be considered or added to the presented streams of work. Several items were suggested, including the risk mitigation plan that the Maryland Insurance Administration is currently working on with the Wakely Consulting Group, the Navigator certification issue, essential health benefits, and the development of a financing system. Some of these topics will fall under the umbrella of policy work that is likely to be generated from an eventual Exchange bill from the legislature. Additionally, the basic health plan report will be issued shortly by Medicaid and will be shared with the Exchange. Its implications will be discussed at the next Exchange Board meeting in February.

The next topic covered was the 2012 legislative session and specific activities planned. The administration bill is scheduled to be introduced on January 23, 2012. A subgroup is currently working on the review of the bill. Meetings are currently scheduled for testimony and Board members are encouraged to attend as often as they are able. Current scheduled meetings to provide an overview of recommendations are on January 25 with Health and Government Operations, February 1 with the Senate Budget and Taxation, and February 2 with Senate Finance. Budget discussions are scheduled for January 26 with House Appropriations and January 31 for Senate Budget and Taxation. The Exchange Board is not going to become a policy recommending body during the session; rather, the plan is to stand behind the recommendations made in the policy report and if legislation is introduced that affects the Exchange or contradicts recommendations, then the topic will be brought to the Board for discussion.

Finally, dates have been established for monthly Board meetings through the year. Generally, meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. Several meetings have space reserved in various locations around the state in order to provide opportunities for the public to attend without having to travel to Baltimore. Allotting additional time for public comment at these other locations (if time allows) will be considered.

Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 14, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maryland Health Care Commission.